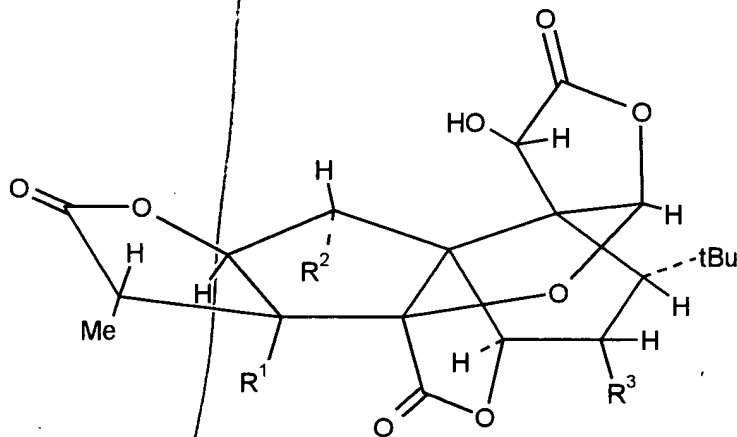


Claims

1. Use of a ginkgolide for the manufacture of a medicament for use as an inhibitor of membrane expression of a benzodiazepine receptor.
2. Use of an inhibitor of membrane expression of an adrenal benzodiazepine receptor for the manufacture of a medicament for use as an inhibitor of glucocorticoid release.
3. Use as claimed in claim 2 wherein said inhibitor of membrane expression of an adrenal benzodiazepine receptor is a ginkgolide.
4. Use according to claim 1 of a ginkgolide containing extract from ginkgo biloba.
5. Use as claimed in claim 1 of a ginkgolide of formula I



- (wherein each  $R^1$  and  $R^3$ , independently, is H or OH, and  $R^2$  is H, OH, or  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. Use as claimed in claim 5 of a ginkgolide of formula I where  $R^1$  is OH,  $R^2$  is H or OH, and  $R^3$  is H, or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. Use of a ginkgolide for the manufacture of a medicament for enhancing levels of ACTH.

8. A pharmaceutical composition for use as an inhibitor of membrane expression of a benzodiazepine receptor, said composition comprising an effective amount of a physiologically tolerable ginkgolide together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

9. A pharmaceutical composition for use as an inhibitor of glucocorticoid release, said composition comprising an effective amount of a ginkgolide or ginkgo biloba extract together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

10. A pharmaceutical composition for use as an elevator of ACTH levels said composition comprising a physiologically tolerable ginkgolide together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

11. A method of enhancing levels of ACTH in a patient, which comprises administering to said patient an effective amount of a ginkgolide.

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